



OGMCOAL DNR &lt;ogmcoal@utah.gov&gt;

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**Re: Restoration of Prime Farmland after surface mining Coal Hollow C/015/0005**

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**Priscilla Burton** <priscillaburton@utah.gov>

Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 4:29 PM

To: "Thapa, Bir - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT" &lt;Bir.Thapa@usda.gov&gt;

Cc: OGMCOAL DNR &lt;ogmcoal@utah.gov&gt;, Christine Belka &lt;cbelka@osmre.gov&gt;, Steve Christensen &lt;stevechristensen@utah.gov&gt;

Good afternoon Mr. Thapa,

I look forward to speaking with you about the nuclear density gauge as a tool for the purpose of measuring redistributed soil density. Please give me a call when you have reviewed the information.

My work hours are 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday - Thursday, and 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. on Friday.

Thank you,

Priscilla Burton, MS, CPM, CPSSc  
Environmental Scientist  
Division of Oil, Gas, & Mining  
Price Field Office

cell: 435-609-1014

[priscillaburton@utah.gov](mailto:priscillaburton@utah.gov)

On Wed, Mar 25, 2020 at 10:40 AM Thapa, Bir - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT <[Bir.Thapa@usda.gov](mailto:Bir.Thapa@usda.gov)> wrote:

Thank you Priscilla!

I had a problem with VPN connection since I myself is working from home. As a result, I could not get your emails. Just wanted to let you know that I received now your two emails and started to review. Will let you know once I complete.

Bir

Thank you,

**Bir Thapa, ph. D.**

**NRCS Utah State Office****State Soil Scientist**

125 S. State Street. Suite 4010

Salt Lake City, UT 84138

**Work: 801-524-4573**

**Bir.Thapa@USDA.gov**

**From:** Priscilla Burton <[priscillaburton@utah.gov](mailto:priscillaburton@utah.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 23, 2020 12:14 PM

**To:** Thapa, Bir - NRCS, Salt Lake City, UT <[Bir.Thapa@usda.gov](mailto:Bir.Thapa@usda.gov)>

**Cc:** OGMCOAL DNR <[ogmcoal@utah.gov](mailto:ogmcoal@utah.gov)>; Christine Belka <[cbelka@osmre.gov](mailto:cbelka@osmre.gov)>; Steve Christensen <[stevechristensen@utah.gov](mailto:stevechristensen@utah.gov)>

**Subject:** Restoration of Prime Farmland after surface mining Coal Hollow C/015/0005

Hello Mr. Thapa,

We spoke by telephone earlier today and you asked me to send an email outlining my request.

In 2016 and 2017, our agencies worked together to approve mining of prime farmland near the town of Alton in Kane County, Utah. The federal rule/law governing our responsibility is 30CFR823.4 Performance Standards on Prime Farmlands at [https://ecfr.io/Title-30/pt30.3.823#se30.3.823\\_14](https://ecfr.io/Title-30/pt30.3.823#se30.3.823_14) and section 515(b)(7) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). Here is a link to the SMCRA reference <https://www.osmre.gov/lrg/docs/SMCRA.pdf> please scroll to p. 77.

In 2019, The Coal Hollow Mine completed mining on the following prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance.

**In Range 6 West, Township 39 South Section 12:**

G. Ferril & Dorothy Heaton, P.O. Box 100063, Alton, UT 84710, 7.2 acres in parcel 9-6-12-1.

Orval & Greta Palmer, P.O. Box 100144, Alton, UT 84710-0144; 6.9 acres in parcels 9-6-12-3.

Dean R. Heaton, P.O. Box 435, Fredonia, AZ 86022, 17.9 acres in parcel 9-6-12-2.

**In R 5 West T 39 S Section 7:**

G. Ferril & Dorothy Heaton, have parcel 9-5-7-3A which is included in the 6.9 acres above.

Reconstruction of the soil will take place this summer. Former State Soil Scientist Michael Domeier and Meridith Albers reviewed and approved the soil reconstruction plans, which include density evaluation of the replaced soil horizons. Please see attached copy of the mine plan page (Chap 9, p. 12) that describes the density evaluation. The reconstruction plan was vague as to how to achieve a rapid, real time density measurement. The mine operator has suggested using a nuclear density probe. The operator gathered pre-disturbance measurements and proposes comparing the pre-disturbance measurements with post reconstruction measurements to show the density requirement has been met.

I have attached the mine operator's density monitoring proposal for your review. The new information is presented as redline text and in the new Appendix 9-1. This most recent submittal is missing Appendix A and Appendix D. I will send these appendices in a separate email, so that the attachments do not exceed the maximum memory.

As required by SMCRA, I am asking for your comment and approval of this approach. Feel free to call me to discuss this proposal. I am also working from home this week, due to Clovid-19. You can reach me at the cell phone below or by email.

Regards,

Priscilla Burton, MS, CPM, CPSSc

Environmental Soil Scientist

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